

Amendment of 8/22/03, Appl'n. 09/708,658, GAU 3724

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A blade, comprising:

a substrate including a specular surface, wherein at least some reflected image is visible on the surface; and

a thin [[, hard]] plate deposited on the specular surface, the plate comprising a plate material that is harder than the substrate;

wherein the substrate is beveled toward a cutting edge of the blade; and
wherein the cutting edge comprises the ~~thin, hard~~ plate extending to the cutting edge on a single side of the blade;

whereby the cutting edge is straight in a cutting direction.

2. (currently amended): The blade according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises

a base portion including a first material and

a surface portion including a second material that is harder than the first material and less hard than the plate material, wherein the surface portion comprises the specular surface.

3. (original): The blade according to claim 2, wherein the second material comprises chromium.

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4. (original): The blade according to claim 2, wherein the second material comprises glass.

5. (currently amended): The blade according to claim 1, wherein the [[hard]] plate material comprises a ceramic.

6. (currently amended): The blade according to claim 1, wherein the [[hard]] plate has a thickness on the order of a micron.

7-16. (canceled)
